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T U E S D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

- + Secretary-General meets in Washington with President George Bush; has wide exchange of views with Secretary of State James A. Baker on large number of United Nations-related issues, as well as United States financial participation in peace-keeping operations.
- + Security Council considers request by Armenia for urgent meeting of the Council on situation in Nagorno-Karabakh.
- + Secretary-General's Special Envoy to Tripoli, Under-Secretary-General Vladimir Petrovsky, meets with Libyan leader in connection with Security Council's request for that country's cooperation with regard to downing of Pam Am flight 103 and UTA flight 772.
- + Secretary-General recommends that General Assembly appropriate an additional \$764 million for United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia through 31 October 1992; as of 30 April, unpaid assessed contributions by Member States total \$139 million.
- + United Nations High Commission for Refugees warns of lack of "agricultural land" in the four north-western provinces of Cambodia for returnees; Agency is seeking alternative options for resettlement.

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In Washington D.C. this morning, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali met for "over one and a half hours" with U.S. Secretary of State James A. Baker III for a wide-ranging exchange of views on a large number of issues on the United Nations agenda.

According to the Spokesman accompanying him, the Secretary-General and Mr. Baker discussed the present situation in Afghanistan in the light of Mr. Boutros-Ghali's recent visit to the region and the progress of the United Nations operation in Cambodia. They also discussed the question of Libya, and the Secretary-General informed Mr. Baker of the mission to Tripoli of his Special Envoy, Under-Secretary-General Vladimir Petrovsky.

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With regard to the situation in Somalia, the Secretary-General briefed Mr. Baker on the efforts of his Special Representative for that country, Mohammed Sahnoun, and stressed the importance of solving that country's problems in view of the human suffering there. The Secretary of State and Mr. Boutros-Ghali also reviewed the El Salvador peace accords and the situation in Haiti.

Turning to the situation in Yugoslavia, the Secretary-General briefed Mr. Baker on the recent mission of Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding to Bosnia-Herzegovina to examine the feasibility of a United Nations peace-keeping operation in that region.

Among other topics, Mr. Baker and the Secretary-General discussed the current fighting in the Sudan, the general state of relations between North and South in the context of the ending of the Cold War, the situation in the Middle East, and the United States financial contribution of United Nations peace-keeping operations.

The Secretary-General was scheduled to meet with President George Bush, after which he would attend a working luncheon hosted by President Bush in his honour. This afternoon, the Secretary-General would meet jointly with members of the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee and the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

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The Security Council was expected to hold consultations this afternoon to consider a request by Armenia for an urgent meeting of the Council on the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh. The request was contained in a letter to the Council President, dated 9 May, in which the President of Armenia, Levon Ter-Petrosian, asked for an emergency meeting of the Council to discuss "the escalation of the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh, the continuing blockade of Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh and the threat of potential outside intervention in the region". (S/23896)

On Saturday, 9 May, the President of Azerbaijan, Y. Mamedov, protested to the United Nations for what he called "a concentrated bombing attack" by Armenian forces against the city of Shusha in the province of Nagorno-Karabakh. According to the statement, the attacks by the Armenian forces resulted in the occupation and destruction of Shusha with heavy loss of life.

At a press conference at Headquarters this morning, the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations, Hasan Hassano, pointed out that the problems between the two new United Nations Member States exceeded the conflict zone in Nagorno-Karabakh. He said his country would request that the Council send a fact-finding mission to the region to examine the situation between the two States and make recommendations on a ways to solve the crisis.

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The Secretary-General's Special Envoy to Tripoli, Under-Secretary-General Vladimir Petrovsky, met yesterday with Libyan leader Muammar el-Qaddafi and with the Foreign Minister of Libya in connection with the Security Council's request for Libya's cooperation in establishing responsibility for the downing of Pan Am flight 103 and UTA flight 772.

According to a statement issued at Headquarters today, Mr. Petrovsky sent an interim report this morning on his meetings with the Libyan leader to the Secretary-General in Washington D.C. Mr. Petrovsky will submit his final report to the Secretary-General when he returns to New York on Friday, 15 May.

The Secretary-General asked Mr. Petrovsky on 7 May to travel to Libya carrying a message to Colonel Qaddafi. The trip was in the framework of the Secretary-General's mandate under the Security Council's resolutions 731 (1992) of 20 January and resolution 748 (1992) of 13 March. Under resolution 748, the Council had set a 15 April deadline for Libya to comply with its request for cooperation in establishing its responsibility for the downing of the two aircraft. The sanctions imposed under resolution 748 - currently in effect - include an air and arms embargo, as well as limitations on diplomatic staff at Libyan diplomatic missions and consular posts abroad.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has recommended that the General Assembly appropriate an additional \$764 million for the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) through 31 October 1992. That would bring to some \$998 million the total appropriations so far for the combined operations of the United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC) and UNTAC. The total cost of UNTAC is estimated at approximately 1.9 billion through end of July 1993, exclusive the cost for repatriation and rehabilitation programmes.

In his report to the General Assembly on the financing of UNTAC, dated 7 May, the Secretary-General pointed out that as of 30 April, only \$94 million of the \$233 million initially apportioned to Member States had been received, resulting in unpaid assessed contributions of \$139 million. With regard to voluntary contributions, the Secretary-General appealed to member States "to consider making available voluntary contributions in cash and in kind" in support of UNTAC's operation.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali further appealed to member countries to contribute to the repatriation programmes to be undertaken by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). He said he would recommend alternative arrangements in case of shortfall in the funding of the repatriation component.

With respect to the rehabilitation programme, the Secretary-General launched an appeal to the donor community for assistance, during his recent visit to Cambodia. Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali stresses in his report that the rehabilitation of Cambodia's infrastructure "will assist the operation of UNTAC during the transitional period".

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The United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC) was absorbed into UNTAC as of 15 March 1992. The Secretary-General recommended in his report that the expenditures relating to both operations be combined into the Special Account for UNTAC. (A/46/903)

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The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) acknowledged today that there will probably not be sufficient agricultural land in the four north-western provinces of Cambodia for returnees. As a result, the UNHCR is seeking alternative options for the resettlement of Cambodian refugees.

According to a statement released in Phnom Penh today, the UNHCR is expanding the search for land and is studying several non-agricultural options in conjunction with the Supreme National Council. Priority will be given to family reunion cases and also the families wishing to return to their villages of origin.

Today's report from Phnom Penh states that as of 8 May, 6,828 Cambodians have been repatriated from camps inside Thailand. The 626 returnees who arrived in the Cambodian capital on 30 April aboard "The Sisophon Express" left the reception centre and have settled in six villages in Kompong Speu province.

Total requirements for the Cambodian repatriation operation are budgeted at \$84.3 million for 1990-1992. Contributions received as of 8 May totaled \$75.4 million.

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